



## **Bristol Resource Recovery Facility Operating Committee**

43 Enterprise Drive  
Bristol, Connecticut 06010  
www.brrfoc.org

(860) 585-0419  
(860) 225-9811  
Fax (860) 585-9875

### **Testimony of the Bristol Resource Recovery Facility Operating Committee to the Planning & Development Committee**

#### **Proposed S.B. 404**

#### **AN ACT CONCERNING BUILDING PERMIT FEES FOR CLASS I RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS AND RENEWABLE ENERGY CREDITS FOR TRASH-TO-ENERGY FACILITIES**

Senator Osten, Representative Rojas, Senator Fasano, Representative Aman, and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to present comments on proposed bill S.B. 404, An Act Concerning Building Permit Fees For Class I Renewable Energy Projects And Renewable Energy Credits For Trash-To-Energy Facilities.

I am the Executive Director of the Bristol Resource Recovery Facility Operating Committee (BRRFOC), a regional waste management agency serving eighteen municipalities with a population of over 375,000. Our agency, founded in 1985, has grown from a core group of eight cities and towns to its present configuration based on successful management and oversight by chief elected officials, town managers, and public works directors. Those individuals in our organization who serve on the Board or Subcommittees provide key leadership and guidance on all matters related to operation of the agency, including budgets, strategic planning, and contract administration.

In September 2014 the Resources Recovery Task Force formed under P.A. 13-285 commenced work on formulating recommendations on renewable energy credits for resource recovery facilities, and advise whether legislative changes should be made to recognize the important contribution of these plants as part of Connecticut's energy and waste management strategies. One of the three subcommittees which formed in response to the Act focused on renewable energy credits, and recommendations were submitted as part of the final reports.<sup>1</sup>

We are pleased to see the proposed legislation could improve the competitive position of in-state trash-to-energy facilities relative out-of-state credits generated by landfill gas recovery projects. This is an important concern relative to state energy policy, which inadvertently favors out-of-state renewables. As to the proposed floor price of one cent per kilowatt-hour (Section 16-245a(i) of the 2014 supplement ), we question whether consideration of the rate should be taken up as part of the recommended contested case proceeding referenced in Section 16-245a(g)(2).

<sup>1</sup> [http://www.ct.gov/deep/lib/deep/waste\\_management\\_and\\_disposal/solid\\_waste/transforming\\_mats/mgmt/resources\\_recovery\\_task\\_force/rtf\\_final\\_report.pdf](http://www.ct.gov/deep/lib/deep/waste_management_and_disposal/solid_waste/transforming_mats/mgmt/resources_recovery_task_force/rtf_final_report.pdf)

BRRFOC/TROC Testimony  
S.B. 404 - Class I Renewable Energy Projects And Renewable Energy Credits  
for Trash-To-Energy Facilities  
March 14, 2014  
Page 2

We are concerned about the proposed revision to C.G.S. 29-263, which would preclude a municipality from assessing building permit fees for any Class I renewable energy project. While the language includes an option to "require payment of administrative costs incurred by such municipality when processing any applications for such project," the BRRFOC member towns and cities view this change as detrimental to local authority, and potentially eliminate an important source of revenue for oversight of new construction. We encourage the Committee to reject this proposed change in the statute.

I welcome the opportunity to discuss these comments with members of the Committee, and thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Mark H. Bobman  
Executive Director